

## Irbid students stage protest

IRBID — (I.T.) Students of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) on Monday boycotted a company that operates buses between Irbid and the university, which is located near the northern town of Ramtha, in protest against the company's refusal to increase the number of buses. The protest was also against the company's refusal to set up passenger sheds at bus stops and arrange for buses to operate at fixed hours. The students claim that the company had leased most of its buses to the pilgrims who visit Mecca to perform the Umra pilgrimage, leaving only eight buses for the students. They say that the company had gone back to promise to increase the buses to 17 and to operate buses on fixed hours. The students complain that the lack of a sufficient number of buses was responsible for their delay in arriving for classes. The students say that they boycotted the same bus company on earlier occasions hoping that a solution will be found to the problem.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published weekly by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جريدة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.



## AT&T USA Direct® Service

Your Express Connection to AT&T Service.

Calling the states from \* Available from over 100 countries worldwide.  
Overseas is faster and easy with \* Use your AT&T Calling Card or call collect  
AT&T USA Direct® Service. \* Dependable AT&T service and low international rates.  
When in the Middle East, dial the number shown below from any phone in that country.

BAHRAIN	800-001	SAUDI ARABIA	1-800-10
KUWAIT	800-289	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	800-121
QATAR	800-011-77	SYRIA	0801
JORDAN	1800 000		

\* AT&T World Connect® Service  
\*\* Limited AT&T World Connect® Service

For more information, please call the AT&T office in  
Amman at 03664778

Volume 19 Number 5844

AMMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1995, RAMADAN 14, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## Two churches mark Easter same day

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Latin and Orthodox churches on the occupied West Bank have for the first time agreed to celebrate Easter — the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ — on the same day, officials said Monday. However, in Jerusalem the Latins, a community of the Catholic Church, will still follow Rome's lead and hold their ceremonies on April 16, a week before the Orthodox Ibrahim Qandalaf, who is in charge of Christian affairs for the Palestinian self-rule authority, explained that in the Holy City the Christian communities have to observe the status quo, which has been in force since 1973.

## Israel does not kill wounded — Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin tried to stamp out reports Monday that soldiers were not taking any prisoners with a strongly worded statement that Israel does not finish off enemy wounded. The intervention came after the army announced an investigation into allegations that an Israeli officer died from friendly fire in southern Lebanon in December. (see page 7). "We send our soldiers to fight against terrorists. They have to be allowed to open fire if something moves," Mr. Rabin told reporters. "But it is unthinkable that after an engagement, when the outcome is clear, we finish off the wounded. "I am not saying there have not been mistakes here and there. And if that is the case now we have to take care of it."

## Ekeus to visit Iraq on Sunday

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The head of the U.N.'s Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM), Rolf Ekeus, will travel to Baghdad on Sunday for consultations, his spokesman said Monday. Mr. Ekeus, who will stay until Feb. 23, will seek to maintain a clear dialogue between the United Nations and Baghdad over the disarmament, spokesman Tim Treven said. The U.N. commissioner in the last month has visited Washington, London and Paris and he will present his latest report on Iraq before the Security Council after he returns from Baghdad.

## Jahan-e-Islam 'insulted Islam'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian authorities have accused a banned Islamic left-wing daily of insulting Islam and printing lies, a newspaper said Monday. Deputy Culture Minister Ezzatollah Zarighani told Resalat newspaper that Jahan-e-Islam, run by the brother of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had "created doubts, printed untrue stories ... and insulted the religious beliefs of the Muslim nation." "The decision to ban the paper was taken in view of numerous such violations in the past." He denied the daily had been banned because it had criticised the government. Jahan-e-Islam, representing Islamic leftists who have steadily been sidelined from power since 1989, was ordered to stop publishing on Thursday after it printed several stories critical of the government.

## Romania backs Golan pullback

DAMASCUS (R) — Romania voiced support on Monday to Syria's call for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and offered Romanian participation in a possible future peacekeeping force to separate Syrian and Israeli troops. Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Teodor Viorel Melescanu also told Reuters after talks with Syrian leaders he believed the Middle East peace process was going through a crucial stage and lots of effort was needed to further the negotiations that opened in 1991.

# Israel, PLO talk peace, but remain far apart

Washington statement reiterates Arab-Israeli commitment to accords and peace on all tracks

## Christopher, Kabariti hold talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have renewed their commitment to peace in Washington, vowing prompt talks on thorny issues like Palestinian elections and Israeli troop redeployments despite escalating tensions at home.

But both Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and a senior aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat were later quoted by Israeli media as saying the meeting had failed to generate substantial progress.

Mr. Peres said his discussions with senior PLO official Nabil Shaath had been "polemics," while Arafat aide Ahmad Tibi told Israel Radio the talks "did not bring about any progress" and accused Israel of "suffocating" the Palestinians with its closure of its border with Gaza and the West Bank.

Mr. Christopher told reporters there had been "a very significant step forward by (Israel and the PLO) to

recommit themselves to the peace process," but admitted there had been "no explicit understanding" on the border closure.

"Both sides reaffirmed

that all parties agreed to honour agreements already made and accelerate talks on all tracks.

Mr. Christopher told reporters there had been "a very significant step forward by (Israel and the PLO) to

recommit themselves to the peace process," but admitted there had been "no explicit understanding" on the border closure.

"Both sides reaffirmed

their commitment to negotiate all aspects of the interim agreement, including transfer of authority and redeployment in the rest of the West Bank, and elections...," he said in a statement.

The three-hour wider meeting produced an agreement to establish new industrial free-trade zones in the region, and President Clinton said he would clear the way

(Continued on page 7)

pliance with U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq, once the Kingdom's major trading partner.

The foreign minister said despite all difficulties, Jordan chose to make peace with Israel and signed a peace treaty with it.

The minister underlined Jordan's commitment to support the Palestinians and the Palestine National Authority to enable them to regain their rights on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Kabariti also met with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa and discussed with him means of coordinating Jordanian-Egyptian stands on the peace process.

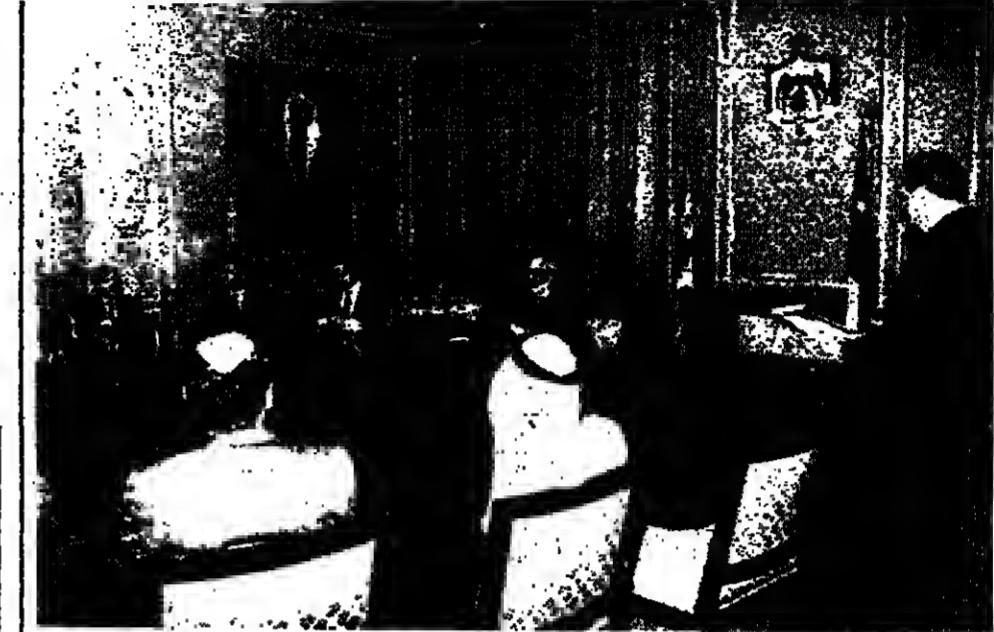
peace process and its backing for them in their pursuit to regain their occupied lands.

Mr. Christopher lauded Jordan's record in fields of democracy and human rights, saying the U.S. administration has officially asked Congress to write off the remainder of Jordanian debts to the U.S. immediately through an annex to the 1995 budget.

The parties reaffirmed their strong determination to honouring their agreements already concluded and to accelerate negotiations on all tracks," the statement said.

The parties "declared that they are committed to com-

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday meets with a delegation representing retired servicemen (Petra photo)

## Ex-servicemen appeal to King for assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received the chairman and members of a committee representing the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation of Retired Servicemen (JESORS).

The committee outlined to the King preparations for the first national conference for retired servicemen and the committee's various tasks.

King Hussein passed his directives to the committee

concerning the JESORS' activities.

The JESORS' chairman, Brigadier Aref Oteibi, expressed the servicemen's appreciation of the King's continued care for the interests of retired serv-

icemen.

Brig. Oteibi referred to the economic difficulties facing retired servicemen and said they hoped that the King would help them live a decent life.

## Arab states aim for joint stance on nuclear treaty

CAIRO (Agencies) — Rep-

resentatives of 14 Arab states will try to reach a joint position on the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) during talks here Tuesday. Arab League Assistant Secretary General Adnan Omran said Monday.

Mr. Omran said the officials, meeting at the Arab League headquarters, would try to outline a draft resolution "defining a joint Arab position" on the NPT extension, to be submitted to the Arab League Council on March 22.

The officials were also to work on a draft convention on eliminating weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, which would be discussed at the council meeting here.

The states participating in Tuesday's talks would include Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon. Mr. Omran said.

Opponents of the peace deal have killed scores of Israelis in suicide bombings within the Jewish state since last April, the eve of the implementation of the West Bank peace treaty.

Israelis, warning that it is still threatened by countries like Iran which are not involved in the Middle East peace negotiations, has refused to sign it and has never acknowledged possessing nuclear weapons.

In an interview with the

Western experts say the Jewish state has about 200 nuclear warheads.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres declared Monday Israel would not sign the NPT.

Mr. Peres said Egypt pressed the issue on Sunday at a Washington meeting of Arab-Israeli foreign ministers.

"There was a sharp exchange and a harsh exchange but there is no change in Israel's stance," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio in a Washington interview. "We only said that Egypt has no threat of destruction, Israel does — Iran and Iraq."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who pressed the issue, was likely to raise it again when he met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Monday.

Israel and Egypt, partners to a 1979 peace treaty, are the biggest recipients of U.S. aid.

Iran may refuse to sign an indefinite extension of the NPT even if Israel joins. Iran's permanent U.N. envoy Kamal Kharazi warned Monday.

In an interview with the

(Continued on page 7)

## Chechenya truce announced

NAZRAN, Russia (Agencies) — Russia and Chechenya have reached an agreement on a ceasefire in the two-month-old war in the breakaway republic, a Defense Ministry spokesman said Monday.

Vladimir Nikanorov said the agreement was reached after five hours of talks between the commander of Russian Interior Ministry troops in Chechenya, Colonel General Anatoly Kulikov, and Aslan Maskhadov, the chief of Chechen forces.

The parties have reached an agreement to stop fighting with heavy artillery starting tomorrow, Mr. Nikanorov said. He said Russia had also agreed to turn over the bodies of Chechens killed in the conflict.

The first steps have been made towards achieving mutual understanding," the spokesman added.

Russia sent troops and

tanks into the North Caucasus territory of Chechenya on Dec. 11 to crush a bid for independence and became bogged down in heavy fighting which killed hundreds, possibly thousands of people.

The ministry spokesman said the ceasefire agreement was reached between Russia and Chechenya in the presence of Ingush Vice-President Boris Agapov.

He added that the follow-up talks possibly to extend the ceasefire were scheduled for Wednesday and might take place in the Ingush capital of Nazran.

Moscow has repeatedly ruled out talks with rebel Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, but has said it was ready to talk with field commanders. All previous attempts to set up talks and arrange a ceasefire have failed.

ITAR-TASS news agency

(Continued on page 7)

## JVA to take charge of designing and building dam on Yarmouk

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Israel on Monday agreed to have the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) to carry out work related to designing and building a dam in Al Adasiyah area on the Yarmouk River, the head of the Jordanian side to the Jordanian-Israeli water committee said. Munther Haddadin also said the Israeli government would pay its share establishing the dam, which will be used to divert Jordan's and Israel's shares of the Yarmouk River water.

Dr. Haddadin said the EU had expressed readiness to offer Jordan a grant to conduct studies on water projects carried out as part of the peace treaty. He said the EU's desire was expressed following a European tour by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan last November.

As they wound their way through the city's streets, the protesters urged shopkeepers to close down and join the procession, but few responded.

"Why should I take part in it?" asked Zakaria Mazzloun, 50, as he made a bamboo chair in his workshop. "It's a negative action that would produce no results."

The only resistance to Israel's measures is to rely on ourselves and on our resources and not on the opening and closing of the Erez crossing" into Israel, he added.

Rasim Al Bayyari, head of the trade union, said if the

closure continued it would lead to an economic intifada that would cause "an explosion" that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would not be able to stop.

He said the workers were planning a demonstration at Erez on Thursday, when Mr. Rabin and Mr. Rabin were supposed to meet.

A similar protest broke down last Thursday because Mr. Rabin refused to lift the closure, prompting Mr. Rabin to ask for U.S. intervention.

Security officials said meanwhile Israeli forces had been put on alert against attacks by militants during Ramadan and the first anniversary this week, according to the Muslim calendar of the Hebron mosque massacre.

Police said the 35-year-old Jerusalem taxi driver had been stabbed several times in the neck and died of his

(Continued on page 7)

closure condoned it would lead to an economic intifada that would cause "an explosion" that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would not be able to stop.

He said the workers were planning a demonstration at Erez on Thursday, when Mr. Rabin and Mr. Rabin were supposed to meet.

A similar protest broke down last Thursday because Mr. Rabin refused to lift the closure, prompting Mr. Rabin to ask for U.S. intervention.

Security officials said meanwhile Israeli forces had been put on alert against attacks by militants during Ramadan and the first anniversary this week, according to the Muslim calendar of the Hebron mosque massacre.

Police said the 35-year-old Jerusalem taxi driver had been stabbed several times in the neck and died of his

(Continued on page 7)

## Hundreds protest closure of occupied territories

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Hundreds of Palestinian workers, shouting anti-Israeli slogans, marched through the streets of Gaza City Monday to protest a 23-day closure that has kept them away from jobs in Israel and paralysed the Palestinian economy.

An Israeli driver was stabbed to death in his taxi in Jerusalem on Monday, apparently by Palestinian guerrillas. Israel's police chief said.

"It was an incident very typical of the Ramadan period which radicals see as an excellent time to carry out attacks. I think this was one of them," Inspector-General Assaf Hezez told reporters.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

In Gaza, protesters shouted angrily, denouncing the ban on travel to jobs in Israel and the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. "No to starvation, no to settlements. We are a people who won't

close down it would lead to an economic intifada that would cause "an explosion" that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would not be able to stop.

He said the workers were planning a demonstration at Erez on Thursday, when Mr. Rabin and Mr. Rabin were supposed to meet.



PROTEST IN GAZA: A Palestinian boy holding two loaves of bread on Monday as he participates with his father in a demonstration to protest Israel's decision to keep the

Palestinian territories sealed off for a fourth week. Around 1,500 jobless people marched through Gaza City (See page one) (AFP photo)

## Egyptian parliament passes law controlling union polls

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian parliament has passed a law giving government new powers over union elections amid bitter opposition from unions controlled by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood.

The law, amending legislation adopted in 1993, calls for the establishment of a legal committee to supervise union elections, which could refer to state institutions for help.

Unions representing doctors, pharmacists, engineers and scientists immediately threatened a general strike, union officials said.

Before the vote the unions had mandated their leaders to set a date for a warning strike ahead of a general strike, the officials added.

The law still has to be signed by President Hosni Mubarak before taking effect.

Abdul Monem Abu Futuh said he hoped Mr. Mubarak would send the measure back to parliament, which had "carried out an anti-constitutional act."

Mr. Abu Futuh, deputy secretary-general of the Arab Doctors' Union, told AFP that "according to the constitution, any law concerning a union has to originate from the general assembly" of the union itself.

Union general assemblies earlier called for a peaceful protest march to the presidential palace Monday.

The 21 professional unions have close ties to the outlawed but previously tolerated Muslim Brotherhood, which has been subjected to an increasing clampdown by the authorities waging a battle against Muslim militants.

The 21 are mainly controlled by the Islamists, while the workers' unions are state-

controlled.

The Islamists say the amendment adopted Sunday could open the way to government interference on the pretext of having been asked to support the legal committee.

Two thousand trade unions demonstrated in front of parliament here Saturday to protest the bill.

The authorities have accused members of the Muslim Brotherhood of funding armed Islamic militants in their campaign, which has claimed about 650 lives since it began in March 1992.

The bill, proposed by President Mubarak's National Democratic Party, now only requires Mr. Mubarak's official approval to become law.

Founded in 1928, the Brotherhood is the largest Muslim fundamentalist group in the country. Though outlawed as a political party, it has been tolerated by the government and allowed to run candidates in national elections in conjunction with other parties.

Opponents of the Brotherhood claim it has mishandled union finances and used the unions as a forum to further fundamentalist goals. The Brotherhood denies these charges and claims it has no intention of violence.

Last month, the government detained 27 Brotherhood members, accusing them of funding the Muslim radicals and allowed the unions to carry out "terrorist plans." No charges have yet been brought.

On Saturday dozens of the union members participated in a silent sit-in outside the People's Assembly to protest the bill. Hours after Sunday's vote, union members organised another sit-in at the medical syndicate.

Under the bill, a government-appointed committee of judges will oversee elections of all trade unions, rather than union members. The law will also give the committee the right to check unions' financial and membership records.

## Algerian writer dies in Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — Algerian writer Rachid Mimouni, who strongly opposed the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in his country and fled after death threats, died Sunday at a hospital in Paris of hepatitis, family members said. He was 59.

Mimouni left Algeria, where he was a professor of political economy at the University of Algiers, to neighbouring Morocco in 1993 after threats against him and his 12-year-old daughter.

He recently came to France for treatment of his hepatitis, his family said.

Mimouni wrote several novels in French including "L'Honneur de la Tribu" (Honour of the Tribe), which was made into a film. He also published in 1992 a critical pamphlet on the Islamic Salvation Front, the popular but now banned Muslim movement.

Titled "On Barbarity in General and on Fundamentalism in Particular,"

the booklet sparked the death threats.

His last work, his sixth novel called "La Malédiction" (Curse of the Tribe), which was made into a film, was published in 1993 and denounced Algerian fundamentalists, won the Prix du Levant and the Prix Liberte.

In it the main character feels a "terrible monster just emerging from the abysses... (which) was going to devastate everything."

There was no information on funeral arrangements.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-14

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ..... *Crochets Minimes*  
17:15 ..... *Qui est Michel Legrand?*  
18:00 ..... *Nous et nos parents*  
19:00 ..... *Best Stories*  
19:50 ..... *Home Improvement*  
20:50 ..... *Road to Avonlea*  
21:15 ..... *Equinox*  
22:00 ..... *News in English*  
22:20 ..... *Watergate*  
23:45 ..... *Feature Film: "The Room Upstairs"*

### PRAYER TIMES

04:58 ..... Fajr  
06:16 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:59 ..... Dhuhr  
14:55 ..... Asr  
17:24 ..... Maghrib  
18:42 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Tel: N10731  
Assembly of God Church, Tel: N10731  
St. Joseph Church Tel: N24590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel: N37331  
De la Salle Church Tel: 661757

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will drop gradually with a chance of scattered showers and winds northwesterly moderate. In Amman, skies will be partly cloudy to clear, winds northerly and seas calm.

Min/Max: Temp. Amman ..... 4/15 Aqaba ..... 10/23

### USEFUL

### TELEPHONE

### NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

**AMMAN:**  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawadch ..... 730111  
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim ..... 621111  
Dr. Khadoun Asfour ..... 694341  
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul ..... 691141  
Firdous pharmacy ..... 773536  
Al Asmaa pharmacy ..... 637055  
Al Sulam pharmacy ..... 623672  
Safouh pharmacy ..... 640035  
Najah pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najah pharmacy ..... 647632

**IRBID:**  
Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu ..... 279773  
Alquds pharmacy ..... 1-1

**Deserts** ..... 2/17  
Jordan Valley ..... X/22

**ZARQA:**  
Dr. Ziyad Jastim ..... (—)  
Khalidi pharmacy ..... 88417

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defense Department ..... 661111

**CIVIL DEFENCE**

Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defense Emergency ..... 199

Rescue Phone ..... 192-2111-13777

**FIRE BRIGADE**

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 896340/2

Traffic Police ..... 896349

Public Security Department ..... 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Police Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Complainants ..... 661270/77

Ammar Municipality Complaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (directors assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 101/23

Central Amman Telephone Repair ..... 621000

Radio Jordan ..... 731111

Water Authority ..... 690111

Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 615615

## Saudis to test French tanks, unlikely to buy

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, which already has 315 U.S. main battle tanks on order, does not appear likely to buy France's Leclercs despite its agreement to test the advanced French tanks in its punishing desert this summer, experts said.

An Arab military analyst said that Riyadh, which has

plans to build up its tank force to more than 1,000 in the long term, was more likely to opt for a fresh batch of American Abrams M1As2 made by General Dynamics Corp.

But despite the lessons of the 1990 tank-led Iraqi invasion of neighbouring Kuwait, the oil-producing giant's financial problems have slowed down in Saudi Arabia's ambitious arms-buying programme.

The experts were com-

menting on a statement earlier this month by Pierre Chiquet, chairman of Giat Industries which makes the Leclerc, that he expected Riyadh to order up to 450 Leclercs in 1997 worth \$28 billion francs (\$3.33 billion).

They said two Leclerc models would be sent to the kingdom to undergo tough tests later this year in the desert heat which rises about 40 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit).

"You never say no to a salesman who offers you to test-drive a new car... testing the tanks does not mean Saudi Arabia would eventually buy the tank," the Arab analyst said.

"Saudi Arabia is fully committed to the M1As2 tanks in 1990. British, French and Brazilian firms had competed for the deal.

Riyadh exercised an option to buy 150 more Abrams in 1992 for fear the General

Dynamics production line could otherwise close but the deal was deferred when Kuwait ordered 256 Abrams.

"The M1As2 will be the main battle tank for Saudi Arabia," one expert said.

Industry experts doubt

Riyadh would embark on a

major new arms shopping

spree before it works its way

out of its pressing financial

problems.

Weak oil prices caused cash flow shortages in the kingdom, the region's largest arms buyer, which traditionally paid cash or in oil for its weapons, forcing it in 1994 to slow down the delivery schedules of U.S. military hardware on order.

The experts were com-

menting on a statement earlier this month by Pierre Chiquet, chairman of Giat Industries which makes the Leclerc, that he expected Riyadh to order up to 450 Leclercs in 1997 worth \$28 billion francs (\$3.33 billion).

They said two Leclerc models would be sent to the

kingdom to undergo tough

tests later this year in the

desert heat which rises about

40 degrees Celsius (122

Fahrenheit).

The experts were com-

menting on a statement earlier this month by Pierre Chiquet, chairman of Giat Industries which makes the Leclerc, that he expected Riyadh to order up to 450 Leclercs in 1997 worth \$28 billion francs (\$3.33 billion).

They said two Leclerc models would be sent to the

kingdom to undergo tough

tests later this year in the

desert heat which rises about

40 degrees Celsius (122

Fahrenheit).

The experts were com-

menting on a statement earlier this month by Pierre Chiquet, chairman of Giat Industries which makes the Leclerc, that he expected Riyadh to order up to 450 Leclercs in 1997 worth \$28 billion francs (\$3.33 billion).

They said two Leclerc models would be sent to the

kingdom to undergo tough

tests later this year in the

desert heat which rises about

40 degrees Celsius (122

Fahrenheit).

The experts were com-

menting on a statement earlier this month by Pierre Chiquet, chairman of Giat Industries which makes the Leclerc, that he expected Riyadh to order up to 450 Leclercs in 1997 worth \$28 billion francs (\$3.33 billion).

They said two Leclerc models would be sent to the

kingdom to undergo tough

tests later this year in the

desert heat which rises about

40 degrees Celsius (122

Fahrenheit).

The experts were com-

menting on a statement earlier this month by Pierre Chiquet, chairman of Giat Industries which makes the Leclerc, that he expected Riyadh to order up to 450 Leclercs in 1997 worth \$28 billion francs (\$3.33 billion).

They said two Leclerc models would be sent to the

kingdom to undergo tough

tests later this year in the

desert heat which rises about

40 degrees Celsius (122

Fahrenheit).

The experts were com-

menting on a statement earlier this month by Pierre Chiquet, chairman of Giat Industries which makes the Leclerc, that he expected Riyadh to order up to 450 Leclercs in 1997 worth \$28 billion francs (\$3.33 billion).

They said two Leclerc models would be sent to the

kingdom to undergo tough



**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** Monday Feb. 13 marked the birthday of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein. Born in Amman, the Princess finished her school in the capital and later in London. She joined the University of Jordan, the English department, from where she graduated in 1972, first among the graduates. Princess Alia is president of the pan-Arab society for Arabian horses and is honorary chairperson of a number of Jordanian clubs and voluntary and charitable societies. Princess Alia is continually involved in efforts to boost women's rights and promote the status of services for Jordanian children.

## 'Legal changes conducive to economic expansion'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — Tourism and textiles are two major sectors that hold out promises of immediate dividends for Jordan in its efforts to develop its economy and the government needs to remove all restrictions that impede the potential growth of the two sectors, a European economic expert said Monday.

Now that the Middle East region is on the threshold of peace, Jordan and other countries in the area stand to benefit from a European Union (EU) initiative to make a "free trade area" between Cape North and Sidiqah, and the Gibraltar and the Middle East, said Guy van Haeverbeke, a veteran who has served the European Community for more than 30 years.

"There will be Euro-Med flow (of trade and economic cooperation) and there will be a Med-Med flow," he said, adding that such a free trade area offered unlimited opportunities to all sides in an atmosphere of quality-based competition.

Speaking to the Jordan Times on the fringes of a seminar — "Jordan and the World" — organised by Economic Perspective, a Jordanian newsletter, Dr. Haeverbeke said he was impressed by the tourism potential in Jordan.

"For millions of people (the Middle East) area is one whole touristic spot rich with attractions," he said, echoing the theme that joint tourism projects for the countries of the region under specific agreements of free travel among them were the best approach to taking advantage of the potential in the sector.

Acknowledging that there was a noticeable increase in the flow of tourism to Jordan in the wake

of the success of the peace process, Mr. Haeverbeke said, however, that the level was "nowhere near the full potential."

In textiles, Dr. Haeverbeke said he did not agree with the argument that Jordan did not have the raw material or the technology to successfully meet the demands of the European market. He said he found quite a good number of people in Jordan who are capable of rising to the challenges of the international market and make a success of local production and exports.

He noted that Jordan and the European Union were on the verge of entering a new trade agreement under which EU member countries would offer preferential treatment to Jordanian goods. The accord, he said, is an area where Jordan could secure favourable terms for its potential textile exports.

The accession of EU member states to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which in essence means barrier-free trade and removal of unfair protective measures, does not contradict the notion of favourable EU treatment for Jordanian products, he said, referring to the possibilities of special arrangements that WTO allows.

In general, he said, the government needs to "create the right legal environment... to gain from the economics of the underlying fabric of peace" and move towards improving local quality control and standards and specifications.

These changes should come in the form of legislation that encourages healthy competition on the basis of quality of products and services and prevents unhealthy practices as protective barriers and dumping. "This is a job for the legislature," he said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### PLAY

- ★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ye Who Are Hearing" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.
- ★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "An Office to Solve the Problems" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### NEWS

- ★ ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 2:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Photo exhibition at the Friends of Archaeology Center.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings under glass entitled "Oriental Roots" by Faith Rabou at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing another exhibition of Arabic Calligraphy.
- ★ Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing works by contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the French Cultural Centre.



**KING RECEIVES CDD DIRECTOR:** His Department Lt. Gen. Ghoul presented Majesty King Hussein received at the King with a set of equipment used by Royal Court Monday Lieutenant General civil defence men in carrying out their Affi Ghoul, director of the Civil Defence tasks, giving details about their use.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday takes part in the tree-planting ceremony organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Photo by George Crystal)

## Queen plants trees in Yajouz forest

**AMMAN** — Her Majesty Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah joined the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) members, nature conservation groups from private and government schools, family and friends, on Monday for the annual tree-planting ceremony at the Noor Al Hussein forest in Yajouz.

The Queen, the patron of the RSCN, and Prince Hamzah planted the first eight of the 1,500 to 2,000 cedar and acacia trees to be planted in the year in the 400-hectare forest given to the RSCN by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Queen Noor was welcomed by 2,800 school children from 94 nature conservation clubs established by the RSCN. The RSCN has founded 370 nature conserva-

tion clubs at government and private schools throughout the Kingdom.

Queen Noor expressed to the school children her pride in their environmental efforts and helped them in planting the trees; she reminded them not to leave the plastic wrapping behind so as not to harm the trees' growth. She commended the RSCN on their efforts to mobilise so many young people to participate in programmes promoting environmental awareness and emphasised the importance of individual responsibility for greening Jordan.

The Noor Al Hussein forest is the sixth planted by the RSCN over the past 10 years in their campaign for a green Jordan by the year 2000."

## Traders discuss trend in economy

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) has helped Jordan enter non-traditional markets in Europe in 1988 and its endeavours towards marketing Jordanian goods abroad are continuing unabated, according to Kamal Qaqish, JTA president.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day meeting entitled "Jordan and the World," Mr. Qaqish said that the way to boosting Jordan's exports lies in organising trade fairs abroad and seminars to orient the public and the local merchants on information about world markets and their requirements.

Expressing belief that Jordan's economy was heading in the right direction, Mr. Qaqish said that in the coming years economic growth was expected, thanks to the

efforts of the Jordanian leadership.

He said that the meeting, in which local and non-Jordanian economists are taking part, aims at discussing various aspects of the Jordanian economy, focusing on incentives given to investors and calling on foreign and local investors to launch joint investment projects especially in the peace era.

Also addressing the opening session was Riad Khouri, representing the local company Meba which organised the meeting in cooperation with the JTA. He said that the seminar aimed at focusing attention on Jordan's relations with the outside world in the financial and economic arenas.

Several speakers addressed the audience at the session, discussing Jordan's economic

links with Europe and emphasising the need for bolstering such relationship. They also outlined the privileges offered to investors under a law for promoting investments.

Mr. Khouri also spoke about trade competitions among countries and their benefits for the consumers, stressing the need for producers to continually seek new markets for Jordanian products.

Participants at the meeting are discussing a range of topics related to Jordanian exports, foreign investments in Jordan, the transfer of modern technology to the Kingdom and the environment. Special attention is being focused on Jordan's economic ties with European countries.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Irsheidat receives EU delegation

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat met in his office Monday with a delegation from the European Union (EU). Discussion covered the prospect of EU providing assistance to the Kingdom, to enable it to carry out water projects as provided for under the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty. These include the building of dams and the diversion canals in the Jordan Valley region. The EU delegation has promised to finance the feasibility studies and the preparation of plans for these projects. The ministry said that consultancy and feasibility studies will be completed by mid-June.

#### House meets Wednesday

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Lower House of Parliament is due to meet Wednesday, in the presence of the Cabinet members, to allow government ministers to reply to queries by deputies on various issues. The House will also debate a report by its Finance Committee which contains two reports submitted by the Audit Bureau.

#### Jordanian-Palestinian committee convenes

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Jordanian-Palestinian committee entrusted with promoting trade between the two countries will hold a meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Tuesday. The meeting, which is in implementation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement signed on Jan. 26, is expected to come up with a list of commodities which will be exchanged by the two sides and other fees exempt from customs duty.

#### 133 merchants fined Sunday

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Ministry of Supply inspection teams Sunday issued fines to 133 merchants in Jordan for violating ministry regulations. A Supply Ministry statement said that 70 of these merchants were in the Amman area. The teams had fined 169 merchants the previous day. The fining of merchants followed a pledge by the minister of supply that the ministry will take drastic actions against violating merchants especially during Ramadan when prices tend to increase unjustifiably.

## Prince Hassan calls for consumer awareness campaign

attended by his advisor, Mohammad Saqqaf.

Society President Mohammad Obaidat voiced the society's appreciation of the Prince's concern with the interest of the Jordanian consumers and his pledge to support the society's activities and endeavours.

Crown Prince Hassan said that awareness could be spread from the mosque pulpit (minbar) through sermons aimed at enlightening the consumers on their responsibilities, on the need to ensure the good quality of the goods they buy and on the merchants' monopoly over certain consumer goods and their abundance by the required specifications.

Prince Hassan's meeting with the society members was

Hassan came one day after deputies in Parliament questioned the fitness of imported meat for human consumption.

Deputy Nazib Ammarin, from Karak, had said during Sunday's session that some reports suggested that merchants were importing meat unfit for human consumption during and before the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

Health Minister Arcf Batayneh replied by stressing that the Health Ministry does not allow the entry into the country of food before laboratory tests determine that it is fit for consumption. When proved to be unfit, such meat or other foodstuffs are not allowed to be marketed but are destroyed while the merchants involved in the transaction are put on trial, said the minister.

## TCC privatisation enters new phase

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — The restructuring of Jordan's telecommunications sector entered a new phase on Monday with the launching of a three-day meeting which will discuss a plan drawn up by an international consultant on commercialising the state-owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) ahead of privatisation.

The government announced last year that privatising the TCC was a strategic objective and the process would be launched with transforming the status of the monopoly as a full-fledged commercial entity.

In a statement at the ceremony, Mr. Muasher said that the six forests planted by RSCN are: King Hussein, Queen Noor, Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Al Mugabeen, Al Zab and Al Ballan, located around the capital.

Mr. Muasher called on all citizens to take responsibility in greening the country through planting as many trees as possible.

He said that with lapse of time the forest will be a natural habitat of flora and fauna of all kinds, thus helping restore a natural balance in the country.

in telecommunications under the close watch of a regulatory body.

The experts, some of whom met with senior government leaders, also pointed out that the long-term goals of the government in privatising telecommunications under controlled conditions would be much more beneficial than the short-term deprivation of revenues from the state-owned TCC.

The advantages include timely catching up with advanced technology in the field.

It is estimated that the TCC generated more than JD 120 million in revenues to the treasury in 1994; of an insignificant amount, given that the state budget was JD 1.35 billion.

However, because it was forced to freeze all modernisation and expansion projects for more than four years since 1989, as a result of the economic crisis Jordan faced, the TCC has not been able to meet the growing demand for telephone services in the first phase.

The commercialisation of the corporation will begin around mid-1995, after the draft law is formalised through the government and Parliament, while the TCC will carry out the relevant administrative and financial changes within itself to meet with the requirements of a commercial entity.

The commercialisation and privatisation of the TCC comes in line with the government's gradual moves towards a free market economy with limited or no direct state involvement in the sectors such as telecommunications, transport etc.

The private sector has been allowed to enter the telecommunications area after amendments were made to the relevant law, allowing commercial firms to have concessions in "complementary services."

Subsequently, private operators secured a concession for radio paging under an accord signed in 1992, and for cellular phones under a deal entered last year.

It was announced at the outset of Monday's meeting that the concerned authorities have already prepared a draft law on the status of the TCC and the draft would be sent to the government soon for the constitutional process of its enactment.

Several international experts who visited Jordan since 1990 have strongly recommended the privatisation of the TCC and streamlining foreign and local private sector involve-

ment in telecommunications under the close watch of a regulatory body.

The details of the plan were not immediately available, but the first steps in commercialising the TCC, a state monopoly, are expected to involve changes in the laws that created the corporation and gave it its mandate of meeting Jordan's communication needs.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Sarayreh noted that Jordanians wanted "to make telecommunications available for all people living in Jordan, whether they are in rural or urban areas, and that service should be obtained at fair prices that reflect cost, efficiency and... profit."

In line with this approach, the government's main objective is to "stimulate and support the economic, social and cultural development of Jordan and to improve income generation, whether directly as the owner of the presently dominant operator (TCC), or indirectly, from the stronger and more competitive business of the private sector," said the minister.

The "sectoral restructuring" of telecommunications, as officials describe the process, involves setting up policy department and functions, establishing an independent regulatory body, changing the administrative and financial procedures currently in effect at the TCC, and enactment of the required legal amendments.

Walid Dweik, director-general of the TCC, is the overall head of the TCC transformation project. Others involved in the project include M. Khasawneh as director-general of the regulatory body, H. Al Jalaby, as head of the sector policy team, M. Hijazi, a financial advisor to the minister of finance, as manager of the privatisation project. Nabulsi and Company is handling the legal aspects of the project.

**HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN**

Surprise your sweetheart with a candlelit dinner at **Burj Al Arab RESTAURANT**

The purr-fect way to celebrate!

For reservations please call 641361 Ext. 2992

## Peru masses troops for 'final assault' on Ecuadorean post

LIMA (R) — Peru has bolstered troop strength along its northern border in advance of a "final assault" on a key Ecuadorean outpost in a disputed patch of Amazon jungle, according to local press reports Sunday.

Heavy rains and rugged terrain had prevented the Peruvian army from launching the attack on Tzinza post immediately following saturation bombing late last week, the reports said.

The army in the last 24 hours has transported some 2,000 soldiers to the Peruvian line, most from highland Ayacucho Department, the reports added.

Official comment was not immediately available.

The latest Ecuador-Peru dispute is over an unmarked 48-mile (76-km) stretch of border in the remote Cordillera Del Condor that was set out in a 1942 Rio De Janeiro Protocol bringing and end to their 1941 border conflict.

President Alberto Fujimori said Saturday that Peruvian troops had seized the hill above Tzinza, which Peru says is the last Ecuadorean stronghold on Peruvian soil, and that a final attack was imminent.

But he declined to predict when fighting would be over. "We are in a delicate situation because there is an escalation," he said. "I cannot make predictions."

As fighting stretched into its 18th day Sunday, Peru mapped out plans to launch a diplomatic counter-offensive Monday, sending diplomats, jurists, academics and jour-

nalists abroad to explain Lima's position in the conflict.

Government sources said Peru plans to send out the missions simultaneously to Europe, Latin America and the United States to counter what they say has been Ecuador's "disinformation campaign" regarding the border dispute.

Former U.N. secretary general and presidential candidate Javier Perez de Cuellar said in an interview Sunday the mission should go beyond simply explaining Peru's position.

They should "ask that the countries help take this, once and for all, to the negotiating table to finish the demarcation (of the border) as a permanent and definitive solution to the problem," it added.

Mr. Perez De Cuellar said he was worried Ecuador would again reject a peace proposal from the four guarantors of the 1942 Rio De Janeiro Protocol in an effort to have the overall border issue mediated by the U.N. or the Organisation of American States.

Peru has insisted that a panel comprised of officials from the guarantor nations — Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States — is the only international body with jurisdiction in the matter.

Ecuador's armed forces said Sunday that Peruvian anti-aircraft fire hit one of its warplanes, but the aircraft returned safely to base.

The statement was made through a communiqué hand-

ed out after a Peruvian television station reported that Peru had shot down two Ecuadorean planes. The communiqué did not deny the version directly.

"The Ecuadorean Air Force provided air support to the Ecuadorean patrols operating in Cueva De Los Tayos Base," the statement said.

"As result of this support, one of our planes was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire and had to return to base, without much consequence," it added.

In Lima, a television station said Peru's armed forces shot down two planes in the disputed area, where the armies from both countries have clashed for the last 18 days.

America Television said that the Israeli-made Ecuadorean planes crashed under intense anti-aircraft fire.

Peruvian military sources did not immediately comment on the version, but a high ranking Ecuadorean military officer said that the joint command had no information of missing Ecuadorean planes.

Peru has insisted that a panel comprised of officials from the guarantor nations — Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States — is the only international body with jurisdiction in the matter.

Ecuador's armed forces said Sunday that Peruvian anti-aircraft fire hit one of its warplanes, but the aircraft returned safely to base.

The statement was made through a communiqué hand-

ed out after a Peruvian television station reported that Peru had shot down two Ecuadorean planes. The communiqué did not deny the version directly.

"The Ecuadorean Air Force provided air support to the Ecuadorean patrols operating in Cueva De Los Tayos Base," the statement said.

"As result of this support, one of our planes was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire and had to return to base, without much consequence," it added.

In Lima, a television station said Peru's armed forces shot down two planes in the disputed area, where the armies from both countries have clashed for the last 18 days.

America Television said that the Israeli-made Ecuadorean planes crashed under intense anti-aircraft fire.

Peruvian military sources did not immediately comment on the version, but a high ranking Ecuadorean military officer said that the joint command had no information of missing Ecuadorean planes.

Peru has insisted that a panel comprised of officials from the guarantor nations — Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States — is the only international body with jurisdiction in the matter.

Ecuador's armed forces said Sunday that Peruvian anti-aircraft fire hit one of its warplanes, but the aircraft returned safely to base.

The statement was made through a communiqué hand-



Supporters of the Northern League party attend the party congress closing day with the party symbol, a red cross on white background painted on their cheeks. Italy's federalist Northern League, in disarray since it brought

down Silvio Berlusconi's government in December, ended its congress recognising it will need an ally with the left for future elections (AFP photo)

## Italy's Northern League looks left after congress split

MILAN, Italy (AFP) — Italy's federalist Northern League, in disarray since it brought down media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi's government in December, agreed at a congress which ended here Sunday it would have to ally with the left in the case of new elections.

Despite repeated assertions by its leader Umberto Bossi that "the League will not turn left, it is in the centre" in an attempt to keep on board small businessmen, the movement implicitly realised it will have to team up electorally with the ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS).

Given that realisation, numerous supporters have already jumped ship in protest at the way the party pulled the rug from under Mr. Berlusconi just before Christmas.

But Mr. Bossi was adamant that his movement "must build a pole at the centre, representing the middle classes" while remaining "distinct from the pole of the right and the social democratic pole."

He said he also hoped that liberal elements in Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia movement would join him.

But that appeared an impossible dream Sunday given the enduring strength of the link between the media magnate's supporters and the former neo-fascist National Alliance of Gianfranco Fini. Mr. Bossi has also lost his fi-

llies.

The church was once Dresden's most cherished landmark and its ruins were preserved after the raid as a memorial.

Simon Barrington-Ward, bishop of the British city of Coventry, which was bombed by Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe in World War II, said the donation was a "signal of new life and peace."

"On the 50th anniversary of the destruction of Dresden, I will express our regret and our hope of securing peace together," he wrote in Berlin's *Tagespiegel* newspaper.

Queen Elizabeth was booted on a visit to Dresden in 1992, shortly after the queen mother unveiled a statue in London of the man who masterminded the raid, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris.

The German media have given detailed front-page coverage to the anniversary.

The Duke of Kent was due

to attend by some 4,000 supporters and 400 delegates overwhelmingly backed the apparent lurch towards the left and rapidlyously applauded PDS leader Massimo D'Alema, previously caricatured as an ogre of the left.

Mr. D'Alema told the congress he believed a general election would arrive sooner rather than later — most likely late this year — and warned the League it might not have time to create a proper centrist political movement by then.

"The moment Berlusconi unleashes his son offensive, it would not be wise for democratic forces to be divided," he said, adding he wanted to see "a vast alliance" encompassing anyone from "democratic" Catholics to small social-democratic, socialist and republican parties.

The pro-Berlusconi caucus of former League members meanwhile held their own congress Sunday in Genoa under the banner of their newly-formed Italian Federal League (LIF). Despite asserting his centrist credentials, Mr. Bossi had already intimated Saturday that he could accept an "electoral alliance" and share "programmes" with the PDS — even if the link would not be "organic" in nature — with regional polls and possibly early legislative elections on the horizon.

The League congress

## China to mark birth of 1.2 billionth citizen

BEIJING (R) — China is marking the birth this week of its 1,200,000,000th citizen with a major new crusade against multiple-child families in its rural population and among migrant workers whose controls are failing.

The State Council Monday approved the State Family Planning Commission's programme for the rest of the decade, which aims to limit the population to 1.3 billion by 2000 by slowing the natural growth rate to under 10 births per 1,000 of the population.

The growth rate was 11 per 1,000 in 1993, down from 25

in the 1970s before China adopted its strict "one couple, one child" family planning policy.

China's ultimate goal is to achieve zero population growth — a balance of births and deaths — by 2040 when numbers will have hit the 1.5 billion to 1.6 billion level, officials say.

State councillor and commission chief Peng Peiyuan called the campaign of financial and material incentives a "road of hope for rural family planning," Xinhua news agency said.

China intends to pursue its goal undaunted by critics who allege it relies on coerced abortions and sterilisations and other rights abuses to limit births, the officials say. China denies any official support for these practices.

The nationwide campaign,

which senior leaders will kick off Tuesday at the Great Hall of the People, aims to curb

worrying growth rates among the country's rural population

and among migrant workers

whose controls are failing.

China's ultimate goal is to

achieve zero population

growth — a balance of births

and deaths — by 2040 when

numbers will have hit the 1.5

billion to 1.6 billion level,

officials say.

State councillor and com-

mission chief Peng Peiyuan

called the campaign of finan-

cial and material incentives a

"road of hope for rural family

planning," Xinhua said.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of 58,000

a day — or 40 a minute — in

1993.

The commission said in

January that babies were

being born at a rate of







# Economy

## Yemen cracks down on merchants as economy slumps

SANA'A (R) — Yemeni authorities have arrested all the country's wholesalers to stop prices from spiralling further, an official newspaper said.

Merchants said more than 150 people were arrested in the capital Sana'a since the crackdown was launched on Saturday. Hundreds more were arrested in other provinces.

"All wholesale merchants throughout the country were arrested on the orders from the prosecution in order to stop price manipulation,"

especially of food prices," the official 14 October newspaper said on Sunday. It did not say how many.

Yemenis say locally produced vegetables, meat and eggs have risen by 60 to 100 per cent in price over the past few weeks.

The price of imported goods has shot up as Yemen's currency continues to lose value on the foreign exchange markets.

Merchants and diplomats said they doubted the crackdown would help ease a long-

standing economic crisis worsened by a two-month civil war last year and border tensions with neighbouring oil giant Saudi Arabia.

"We are not responsible for the deterioration of the economic situation, inflation or pressure on the local currency," one merchant said.

Economists and diplomats estimate inflation at an annual 60 to 100 per cent. Unemployment is running at 30 per cent of the estimated workforce of four million.

"The best the crackdown

can achieve is to stop prices from further increasing ahead of Eid Al-Fitr," one diplomat said of the feast at the end of February marking the end of Ramadan.

The government held talks this year with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, but diplomats said it did not seem to be acting on their recommendations.

The IMF was reported to have recommended unifying the two-tier exchange rate to 50-55 riyals per dollar, re-

placing an official rate of 12 riyals and a central bank-sanctioned free rate of 84 riyals. The rival trades at about 110-120 to the dollar on the illegal black market.

Yemeni officials in private accuse Riyadh of buying up hard currency in Yemen to weaken the riyal and say subsidised goods are smuggled across Yemen's porous borders to Saudi Arabia.

One official said the Saudis wanted to worsen Yemen's economic problems to wrest concessions in the border

talks.

The accusations, which have also been made by opposition parties in Yemen, could not be confirmed independently.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Saturday Yemen "faces a conspiracy targeting the national economy and aimed at forcing the Yemeni people to kneel through starving them."

Without referring to Riyadh, he said the Yemeni nation was capable of confronting the conspiracy.

## Romania targets \$1b trade with Syria

Banias refinery, with a capacity of 120,000 b/d, in the late 1970s. It also built a cement factory near the northern city of Aleppo.

Mr. Melescanu said Romania's Industrial Export Company recently won \$60 to \$70 million project to increase the capacity of Syria's Jbeisa gas treatment plant.

He said cooperation between the Syrian and Romanian private sectors was increasing rapidly especially after the Romanian revolution in 1989.

"Believe it or not about 4,000 Syrian private companies are operating now in Romania. Most of these are engaged in trade and services activities," he said.

Mr. Melescanu said he was leaving to Lebanon later in the day to discuss with Lebanese leaders what share Romanian companies could have in the country's multi-billion-dollar reconstruction programme.

He said the visit would be in reply to one by Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri to Romania at the end of last year during which the reconstruction issue was discussed.

"We intend to prepare for participation of Romanian companies in the reconstruction programme in Lebanon. We discussed a lot of concrete possibilities during Mr. Hariri's visit to Romania and we will now follow up this issue," he said.

## Iran aims to be energy cross-roads to Central Asia and Europe

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is aiming to establish itself as an indispensable partner in international oil and gas projects in Central Asia and Europe, but is hampered by financial and political problems.

Tehran, at the heart of the world's richest region in hydrocarbons, is seeking to promote a vast network of gas and oil pipelines — dubbed recently by an Iranian daily "the pipelines of peace."

It is also hoping to head off potential competition from foreign companies bidding for lucrative oil and gas contracts in the region, especially the Americans.

Among the projects currently under study are gas pipelines from Turkmenistan to Europe, from Qatar to Pakistan, from Oman to India and from Iran to Armenia — all with Iran at the centre.

Oil pipelines from Azerbaijan to Europe and from Kazakhstan to Europe through Iran are also being discussed.

These projects would allow Tehran to levy high transit

fees and use the network for its own oil and gas exports.

Iran is the fourth largest producer of oil and possesses the world's second biggest gas reserves which remain largely unexploited but are expected to replace oil as a main source of energy and hard currency earnings in the neighbouring countries, foreign

diplomat in Tehran said.

The Iranian daily Kayhan International has dubbed the projects "the pipelines of peace," saying they could facilitate the creation of a climate of cooperation and boost neighbourly principles in the region.

Tehran is also worried by the arrival of Western oil companies, especially the Americans, in the newly-independent countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, where the Islamic republic considers it has a strategic interest.

"We cannot be content to passively watch foreigners extract oil from the Caspian," an Iranian official said earlier this week in explaining Tehran's present efforts to enter a deal between Azer-

baijan and an international consortium to develop offshore oil fields in the Caspian Sea.

The most spectacular project under consideration is a pipeline to transfer Turkmen natural gas to Europe via Iran and Turkey by the end of this century.

Iranian officials have vastly published the \$3 billion project and held an official inauguration ceremony here last year, but it is far from being realised, according to Western experts.

Ways of financing the project remain unresolved and studies have not yet worked out the details of the route, the experts said raising doubts about Iran's ability to pay around \$3.5 billion for its share of the construction costs.

Iran is currently facing a financial crisis and difficulty in attracting foreign investment for domestic projects.

A proposed pipeline to ship Iranian natural gas to a European diplomatic mission has been signed between the two countries, but the financing

— estimated at \$3.5 to \$4 billion — is still to be worked out pending the formation of an international consortium.

Joint projects with Central Asia to build oil pipelines are more realistic as they are less costly, but face political hurdles.

Countries like Kazakhstan are wary of Iran's intentions, and the United States like Russia, which is involved in most of the oil projects in Central Asia, are opposed to a route through Iran.

Washington is against it for political reasons and Moscow for economic, preferring the crude to be transported through its own territory.

Iran is unlikely to secure a share in transporting Kazakh oil and possibly that from Azerbaijan, despite having put pressure on Baku, the experts said.

"Financial difficulties along with the wide-ranging distrust of Iran makes the success of the Tehran's 'pipeline diplomacy' pursued in the past two years far from certain," a European diplo-

## Arab Gulf countries become key investors in Arab industry

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf states have become the main investors in Arab industry as they strive to diversify their economies and minimise the impact of low oil prices, official figures have showed.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states accounted for more than one third of total Arab investment in non-oil industries at the end of 1993, according to figures by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Co-operation (GOIC).

By the end of 1993, GCC countries had invested nearly \$19 billion in the non-oil industrial sector compared with a total Arab industrial investment of \$33 billion, the figures showed.

The figures did not include GOIC industrial exports at about \$9 billion in 1993, covering mostly chemicals, paper, cement and other building materials, spare parts, clothes and textile, food and home appliances.

Despite the investments, oil still provides more than 80 per cent of the GCC's income because of the lack of heavy industry, experts said.

But GCC nations have been seeking technology for such industries from their main economic partners, Japan, the United States and the European Union, which have remained discouraged by the relatively small regional market and restrictions on foreign ownership in projects.

as most funds were pumped into the development of the oil sector.

Increased investments pushed up the industrial sector's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) from around 4.5 per cent in 1980 to 8.1 per cent in 1990 and 9.1 per cent in 1993, according to the figures.

A breakdown showed Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, was the biggest Arab investor in the industrial sector, spending nearly \$11.1 billion by the end of 1993.

Investment stood at \$2.9 billion in the UAE, at \$1.9 billion in Kuwait, \$803 million in Qatar, \$684 million in Bahrain and around \$502 million in Oman.

GOIC figures estimated GCC industrial exports at about \$9 billion in 1993, covering mostly chemicals, paper, cement and other building materials, spare parts, clothes and textile, food and home appliances.

Despite the investments, oil still provides more than 80 per cent of the GCC's income because of the lack of heavy industry, experts said.

But GCC nations have been seeking technology for such industries from their main economic partners, Japan, the United States and the European Union, which have remained discouraged by the relatively small regional market and restrictions on foreign ownership in projects.

Take Your Valentine To:

**Valentino**  
Restaurant

For Reservations,  
please call 645-205

## THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"It's a donor card. When I die, I'm going to leave all my charm and personality to a dull person!"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TOBAN

DAMEF

SHULOC

LOBIED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: HE [ ] ON [ ]

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: ALTAR FLUIO MUSEUM WHEEZE

Answer: What the well-to-do candy maker enjoyed — THE SWEET LIFE

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

</div

B targets \$1  
SyriaBanyas refinery, with  
capacity of 120,000 bbl/d.  
It also has  
cement factory near  
northern city of Aleppo.Mr. Melescanu said Re-  
nia's Industrial Export Co.  
company spent \$60 million  
on the project to increase  
the capacity of Syria's gas  
treatment plant.He said cooperation  
between the Syrian and Re-  
nian private sectors was  
increasing rapidly especially  
in the Romanian revolution."Believe it or not about  
2,000 Syrian private compa-  
nies are operating in  
Romania. Most of these  
engaged in trade and some  
activities," he said.Mr. Melescanu said he  
was leaving to Lebanon the  
day to discuss with  
Lebanese leaders what to  
do in the country's re-  
construction programme.He said in reply to one by Leba-  
nese Minister Rafik  
Hariri to Romania at the  
end of last year during which  
the reconstruction issue was  
discussed.We intend to per-  
form participation of Re-  
nian companies in the re-  
construction programme  
with Mr. Hariri's vis-  
ion and we will follow up this issue," he said.

## SCOPE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1995

Age: 26. Founder:

Growth property, then go  
back to work - you've been there  
with them - use your energy andA bright generation is young  
and future matters as well  
as today.C. most experts for informa-  
tion. Buying will be good:  
you'll have a changeCome to a new  
place. Put in a full day'seffort work today, pay  
off tomorrow. You can increase  
yourself.You will have a change  
to put into operationPut some time for  
you. Put in a full day'seffort work today, pay  
off tomorrow. You can increase  
yourself.You will have a change  
to put into operationPut some time for  
you. Put in a full day'seffort work today, pay  
off tomorrow. You can increase  
yourself.You will have a change  
to put into operationPut some time for  
you. Put in a full day'seffort work today, pay  
off tomorrow. You can increase  
yourself.You will have a change  
to put into operationPut some time for  
you. Put in a full day'seffort work today, pay  
off tomorrow. You can increase  
yourself.You will have a change  
to put into operationPut some time for  
you. Put in a full day'seffort work today, pay  
off tomorrow. You can increase  
yourself.You will have a change  
to put into operationPut some time for  
you. Put in a full day'seffort work today, pay  
off tomorrow. You can increase  
yourself.You will have a change  
to put into operationPut some time for  
you. Put in a full day'seffort work today, pay  
off tomorrow. You can increase  
yourself.Business  
Daily  
BeatA review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic pressArab Bank  
employees  
demand pay  
raise, more  
benefitsLull on Beirut  
foreign exchange  
market, dealers say

BEIRUT (R) — Dealers reported a continued lull on the Beirut foreign exchange market Monday and said the inflow of capital to Lebanon was slowing.

"There are still no fresh amounts coming in from outside to the market. There are many reasons, political and economic," said Talal Abou Zaki, foreign exchange manager at Bank of Beirut and the Arab Countries.

Newspapers also reported a slowdown on the market and in the movement of capital.

The Beirut French-language daily L'Orient-Le Journal said in its weekly market report that the political situation was making the market hesitant and uncertain despite rising local interest rates.

All this translates into a

contraction of activity following on a net slowdown of capital movement towards Lebanon," the newspaper said.

But central bank officials told Reuters there are indications the flow of investment capital is still strong.

A \$30 million balance of payments surplus in December, despite a slowdown in the economy and a political crisis caused by Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri's attempted resignation, showed that capital is still coming in, they said.

The explanation (for the surplus) is that capital inflow for investment is still strong," a bank official said.

December balance of payments figures are the latest available. January figures will be ready near the end of this month.

Mr. Qasem cautioned, however, that technology transfer was not the panacea for Jordan's economic advancement.

Technology transfer, if adopted and applied in the proper manner, could help Jordanian businesses, but the approach has to be strategically designed with the objec-

tive of using technology to develop own potential rather than be content with the level of foreign knowhow, Mr. Qasem said.

Over the decades, the government and a large segment of the private sector have become "trade-oriented" products rather than technology-based development, he said. Both sides tend to overlook long-term benefits of research and development and favour short-term monetary gains while considering business expansion, he asserted.

Mr. Qasem also cited bureaucracy, shortcoming in the taxation structure, lack of incentives and customs clearance procedures as some of the key obstacles that dissuade research and development among Jordanian indus-

tries.

"Our people — in the gov-

ernment as well as the private

sector — have been used to

the trade-oriented mindset

for the past 50 years," he

said. "This has to change. If

it does not change Jordan will

end up like some of the Asian

countries which send their unskilled and skilled labour

outside, with little to show in

terms of local technology.

In the case of Jordan, Mr.

Qasem noted that most of the

Kingdom's industries are pro-

ducing consumer products under

licensing agreements with

foreign companies so that they

have a cost advantage, but are doing little to

introduce their own im-

proved products based on

their own technology.

Mr. Qasem agreed that the

public sector entities like the

Royal Scientific Society And

The Higher Council for Sci-

ence and Technology could help

local industries in research and

development. But, he said,

the level of technology and

research facilities available

to be determined.

Turning to Israel, he said

the country spent billions of

dollars in research and de-

velopment and benefited

from it. Developing the Lavi

fighter was an example, he

said. Israel spent about \$1.3

billion on the project, which

never took off, but it man-

aged to sell up to \$3 billion

worth of electronic and re-

lated products which used

technology derived while de-

veloping the fighter jet itself.

"Our focus is wrong," he

said. "The import-oriented

mindset — which gives you

no reason to consider tech-

nology-based development

— should change. Import

trade makes short term gains,

but the gains from develop-

ment based on technology in

the long term are much

higher."

Mr. Qasem cited Egypt as

an example on the other end.

The country has been pro-

ducing the same type and

style of Fiat cars for the past

30 years and has not intro-

duced any technological im-

provement of its own in the

vehicle. As a result, Egyptian-made Fiat cars "are not

examples as an export item," he

noted.

In the case of Jordan, Mr.

Qasem noted that most of the

Kingdom's industries are pro-

ducing consumer products under

licensing agreements with

foreign companies so that they

have a cost advantage, but are doing little to

introduce their own im-

proved products based on

their own technology.

Mr. Qasem argued that the

public sector entities like the

Royal Scientific Society And

The Higher Council for Sci-

ence and Technology could help

local industries in research and

development. But, he said,

the level of technology and

research facilities available

to be determined.

Turning to Israel, he said

the country spent billions of

dollars in research and de-

velopment and benefited

from it. Developing the Lavi

fighter was an example, he

said. Israel spent about \$1.3

billion on the project, which

never took off, but it man-

aged to sell up to \$3 billion

worth of electronic and re-

lated products which used

technology derived while de-

veloping the fighter jet itself.

"Our focus is wrong," he

said. "The import-oriented

mindset — which gives you

no reason to consider tech-

nology-based development

— should change. Import

trade makes short term gains,

but the gains from develop-

ment based on technology in

the long term are much

higher."

Mr. Qasem cited Egypt as

an example on the other end.

The country has been pro-

ducing the same type and

style of Fiat cars for the past

30 years and has not intro-

## Romario flops in Flamengo debut

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The fanfare was there. What was missing was a goal.

World Cup hero Romario finally debuted Sunday in an official Rio league game for Flamengo before an estimated crowd of more than 99,000 screaming fans at fabled Maracana Stadium.

But the 1994 FIFA Player of the Year failed to score as Flamengo and arch-rival Fluminense battled to a 0-0 draw.

"I didn't get my goal yet," Romario said. "But what's important is that the stadium was full and the game was a cliff-hanger. Fans got their money's worth."

Fluminense, despite playing without injured star Renato Gaúcho, was the faster, more offensive team, and came closest to scoring when Lyra's free kick bounced off the crossbar shortly before halftime.

Flamengo played better in the second half but had difficulty getting the ball to Romario.

For Romario, it was a melodramatic climax to a controversial week.

In different incidents, Romario was accused of attacking a photographer outside a hotel, a woman inside a restaurant, and a 10-year-old beach peanut vendor. His imported car was rammed outside a Copacabana beach hotel.

A Barcelona woman threatened to name him in a paternity suit, and Monica Santoro, his wife and mother of his 2 children, filed for divorce, freezing his bank accounts.

Three weeks ago, Romario said he needed time to recover from the stress of Brazil's World Cup championship and his \$4.5 million transfer from Spain's Barcelona.



Fans of Brazilian soccer player Romario cheer game for his new club Flamengo in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (AFP photo)

## Baseball strike passes half-year mark

WASHINGTON (AP) — The baseball strike entered its seventh month on Sunday with owners and players still locked in bitter opposition.

Even the personal intervention of President Bill Clinton, and the efforts of renowned labour mediator William Usery, failed to produce any progress, leaving fans and the millions of people whose livelihoods depend on the game dangling as the scheduled start of the 1995 season approaches.

After both parties failed to reach a compromise in meetings at the White House on Tuesday, Clinton proposed legislation that would force them to submit to binding arbitration.

Republican congressional leaders have indicated they have no interest in passing such a law.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich came up with another plan — sending both sides off to watch the 1989 feel-good flick, "Field of Dreams," in which an Iowa farmer turns a cornfield into a baseball diamond for a team of ghost players from the past.

Players went on strike on August 12 in opposition to owners' demands for salary limits.

In the six months since then, neither side has given ground though players have lost about \$230 million in income and owners have lost between \$500 and \$600 million in revenue.

## Olympics spirit returns to Lillehammer

LILLEHAMMER (AP) — All that was missing this weekend were the Olympic athletes. But even a few of them turned up.

One year after the Winter Olympics opened in Lillehammer on Feb. 12, 1994, the small south Norway town was once again decked out in its Olympic finery and filled at times with happy hordes out to recapture the spirit of the games.

"It's wonderful to see the town full of life in the streets. It's real Olympic spirit," Trond Anderson, 49, said Sunday. He made the 180-kilometre trek from Oslo so he could trade Olympic pins, as he did last year.

The Olympic banners were back and Olympic music blared along snow-covered Storgaten, Lillehammer's long pedestrian street.

Olympic-style torches

burned outside the 19th century wooden buildings and up at the Lillehammer Olympic park in the hills above town.

Hundreds of people — volunteer workers at the games — donned their official Olympic parks and snow-pants for the weekend.

Olympic pin traders set up their stands again, and folk dancers were taking a turn in the streets.

Despite all the celebrating, some say it's time for Norway to come to grips with the passing of its Olympics, a national obsession in this Winter-sports crazy country of 4.3 million people.

"The party is over," said Tove Lebre, a left-wing member Lillehammer's City Council. "I think it's fine to have this one-year-after celebration, but I am scared to death that Lillehammer is going to become an Olympic cliché if we celebrate year after year."

Gerhard Heiberg, the former president of the Lillehammer Olympic organising committee disagreed.

"I think we should have a big party every February 12

to celebrate the great success of the games," said Heiberg, in town to join the fun.

Even though Lillehammer's Olympic venues are running at a 10 million kroner (\$1.5 million) annual deficit, a majority of those asked in Lillehammer say the games were such fun that they want to do it again...

"As far as I'm concerned, we could have them every year," said Odd Teigen, 49, in the official park he wore a year ago as a volunteer security guard for the games.

In recent surveys, 98 per cent of those asked in Lillehammer said the Olympics were a huge success.

"I think we should apply again, but it would have to be in the far future," said Heiberg.

Heiberg, the former president of the Lillehammer Olympic organising committee disagreed.

"I think we should have a big party every February 12

## Excellent Job Opportunity

A leading graphic design office in Amman has a vacancy for a

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

English language is essential.  
Excellent package &  
Good working environment

Call 862-531 for an interview

## WANTED

Looking for an experienced and referenced maid/cook. Working hours: Sunday to Thursday from 08:30 till 16:00.

Friday and Saturday off.

Tel. 685853 (morning) or 827129 (afternoon).

## FOR RENT

### Furnished Apartment Third Floor in Shmeisani

Super deluxe apartment consisting of 3 bedrooms, salon, dining room, sitting room, 3 bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen with balcony, central heating, telephone, TV & video, covered parking area & watchman.

For more information, please contact:

Tel.: 713193/715815, Fax: 713194

## FOR RENT FURNISHED VILLA

Beautifully designed. Exquisitely furnished. 2-year-old. In Um Uthrainah. Large entertaining space. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid's room, garage, garden. International telephone.

Tel. 622617/638031, before 2 p.m.  
816878 after 3 p.m.

## Kiptanui smashes world record

GHENT, Belgium (R) — Kenyan Moses Kiptanui scored to a world 3,000 metres indoor record Sunday — and then said he planned to break it again before attacking three outdoor records later this year.

Kiptanui clocked seven minutes 35.15 seconds, beating by 2.6 seconds his own old record, set in Seville in February 1992.

"I didn't expect to run as fast as this. It's only my second race (of the season) and I thought it would be too early. It came as a surprise," said Kiptanui.

"I've been mainly training on endurance... cross-country (races) only."

But Sunday's record had made the rest of the year look very promising.

The Kenyan plans attacks on the 3,000 and 5,000 metres outdoor marks and will also try to break the eight minutes barrier in the 3,000 metres steeplechase, a record he himself holds at 8:02.08.

But his next goal is to shave his 3,000 world indoor record again.

In the women's 60 metres, world record holder Irina Privalova clocked 6.97 seconds — 0.05 outside her world record.

Russian Privalova, the world 200 metres indoor champion and European 100 and 200 metres title holder, was pushed to the line by Jamaican Merlene Ottey, who finished 0.08 seconds behind in second place.

## Graf must live with pain Maleeva, Becker, Ferreira win titles



Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva returns a volley during Ameritech Cup (AFP photo)

Becker captures Marsella tournament

Boris Becker won his first pro title of his career Sunday, defeating Czech Daniel Vacek 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 7-5 in the final of the \$506,000 Marsella Open tennis tournament.

"I've never played better tennis than at the moment," Becker said after his victory.

"You have to take advantage of chances when they present themselves — and that's exactly what I'm doing. It's that simple."

Becker was ousted in the first round of the Australian Open last month by Patrick McEnroe but earlier had made the final of the ATP Tour world championships, losing to Pete Sampras 6-4.

Vacek, seeded seventh, had lost in his only other career final in Copenhagen, Denmark last year.

"I didn't feel any pressure all week," Becker said. "Everything was totally relaxed."

Ferreira wins Dubai Open

South Africa's Wayne Ferreira, the world No. 12, won the \$1.1 million Dubai Open title Sunday by beating Italian giant-killer Andrea Gaudenzi 6-3, 6-3.

Winning most of his points on his powerful forehand, the South African met little resistance from Gaudenzi, who had won surprise victories over No. 2 seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia and No. 6种子 Petr Korda of the Czech Republic in the earlier rounds.

Dropping his serve in the opening game of the first set, Gaudenzi set about salvaging some of his points against Ferreira, who was in a brief moment of the match.

It was the third time in her last five events that Maleeva, 19, had reached the final. However, it was her first tour win since Zurich last fall.

Maleeva totalled eight aces, compared to two by Raymond, but won only four points of 16 (25 per cent) at the net as she relied on her passing game.

It was only the second time Raymond, who turned professional in May 1993, had reached a final. She lost to Lindsay Davenport in the 1994 Lucerne Tournament. In that event, Raymond beat two seeded players to advance.

There was plenty of violence on the pitch as well. A lower division game between Endoume and Ajaccio had to be stopped for a quarter-hour after all 22 players, despite wearing anti-armbands in memory of David, died in Lyon a section of the crowd used the moment to yell racist slogans.

There was also plenty of violence on the pitch as well. A lower division game between Endoume and Ajaccio had to be stopped for a quarter-hour after all 22 players, despite wearing anti-armbands in memory of David, died in Lyon a section of the crowd used the moment to yell racist slogans.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

In France, where all amateur matches in the Paris area were called off, the one minute's silence at professional games was often violated. At Metz it was followed by a shouting contest among local fans responded to with partisan chanting by Paris St. Germain supporters and Lyon a section of the crowd used the moment to yell racist slogans.

There was also plenty of violence on the pitch as well. A lower division game between Endoume and Ajaccio had to be stopped for a quarter-hour after all 22 players, despite wearing anti-armbands in memory of David, died in Lyon a section of the crowd used the moment to yell racist slogans.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

Four players were sent off in Italy, where all sport was suspended because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Juventus appeared subdued and many stayed away as anti-violence messages were getting through.

# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1995 11

## Blair sets new world record

CALGARY (AFP) — America's world champion speed-skater Bonnie Blair set a new world record for 500m here Sunday, defeating her closest rival in the fastest women's race of all time.

Canadian Susan Auch, who beat Blair in their last two meetings — Saturday in Calgary and less than two weeks ago in Innsbruck — also beat Blair's old world best of 38.99secs.

But the record stays with the American who clocked 38.69secs in a head-to-head race with Auch who was timed at 38.94.

They are the only two women ever to have broken the 39sec barrier.

Sunday's double break of the record Blair set here last year, 38.99 secs, was thanks largely to the fact that the two world leaders were paired against each other.

Blair admitted after the race: "Being paired with Susan was a big help to me. The ice felt good and it seemed like it gave back to me as well."

Auch was far from disappointed at failing to get a third straight win over the world champion.

"I expected her to come back," said Auch, who beat Blair in another World Cup 500m race Saturday with a short-lived Canadian record of 39.15secs.

"She brought out the best in me. I was pretty stressed about the race, but I skate a lot better when I'm pressured."

Blair's previous world record was set at the same rink here in Calgary last year.



Swedish Kenneth Eriksson puts his Subaru through snowy landscape during the Swedish Rally (AFP photo)

## Gentleman Makinen gifts Swedish Rally title to Eriksson

KARLSTAD, Sweden (AP) — Local boy Kenneth Eriksson was gifted the Swedish Rally here on Sunday by "gentleman" team mate Tommi Makinen.

Makinen, leading by 43secs going into the final special stage, suddenly pulled over his Mitsubishi Lancer with just 500m to go from the finish, allowing Eriksson in third place past to victory.

Eriksson revealed the two had made a gentleman's agreement that whoever was leading on Saturday should be allowed to win the entire event.

That honour fell to the 39-year-old Eriksson, who then had to drive first over the snow-covered course on Sunday morning, costing him precious time.

Finnish Makinen, however, kept his word, allowing Eriksson to win by 12 seconds and finish with a time of

4h51:27. Thomas Radstrom of Sweden, in a Toyota Celica, came third, 1min 7sec behind the winner.

Makinen had the consolation of taking the lead in the World Championship standings after two events, with 25-points to compatriot Juha Kankkunen's 22 in his Toyota. Carlos Sainz of Spain is level with Eriksson in third.

Eriksson paid by Mitsubishi and if I'm asked to sacrifice first place, then it's because it was necessary for the firm."

Andy Cowan, the team's sporting director, explained:

"I took the decision on Sunday morning, seeing the bad weather conditions, that Eriksson, who was leading, should win."

"I told them over breakfast and I think it was a logical decision. Since we got a one-two, our Japanese directors may give us the green light to run two cars in the Portuguese Rally."

Eriksson and Makinen, helped by their local expertise of driving on snow, dominated the event from the start.

The next World Cup event takes place in Portugal between 8-10 March.

Eriksson said: "Obviously I'm happy with my victory but I'm sorry that it had to end like that. I would have preferred to fight it out to the end with Tommi."

"I understand the importance for Mitsubishi to get two

cars to the finish in the first two places without damaging them."

Makinen said: "I stopped at 500 metres from the end not because I was angry but simply because I cannot drive slowly in the special stages. I'd be frightened to lose concentration."

"I'm paid by Mitsubishi and if I'm asked to sacrifice first place, then it's because it was necessary for the firm."

Andy Cowan, the team's sporting director, explained:

"I took the decision on Sunday morning, seeing the bad weather conditions, that Eriksson, who was leading, should win."

"I told them over breakfast and I think it was a logical decision. Since we got a one-two, our Japanese directors may give us the green light to run two cars in the Portuguese Rally."

## Doubts remain as soccer returns from mourning



Arsenal's Paul Merson (left) comes up against a Leicester City attack. The match ended 1-1 (AFP photo)

PARIS (AFP) — Italian football resumed Sunday with a call for fans to unite against violence two weeks after the killing of a Genoa supporter, while in France teams observed a one minute's silence to mark the death of a supporter shot dead after an amateur match in the Paris suburbs the previous weekend.

Alas, it was not always clear that the anti-violence messages were getting through.

In France, where all amateur matches in the Paris area were called off, the one minute's silence at professional games was often spoiled. At Metz it was turned into a shouting contest when local fans responded to drown out partisan chanting by Paris St. Germain supporters, and at Lyon a section of the crowd used the moment to yell racist slogans.

There was plenty of violence on the pitch as well.

A lower division game between Endoume and Ajaccio had to be stopped for a quarter-of-an-hour after all 22 players, despite wearing black arm-bands in memory of Douadi Atoui who was fatally shot leaving the Drancy stadium to the north of the capital, indulged in a free-for-all.

Four players were sent off. In Italy, where all sport was suspended the previous Sunday because of the stabbing of Vincenzo Spagnoli before the AC Milan versus Genoa clash, fans across the country appeared subdued and many stayed away as team captains addressed an anti-violence message to crowds.

Juve fans waved anti-hooligan banners as their side beat Bari 2-0 to stay on top of the table.

Alessandro Del Piero, the under-21 international, scored from the penalty spot in the 40th minute after a handball by Brazilian Gerson and Ciro Ferrara put the issue beyond doubt with a goal in the final minute.

Both sides finished with ten men after Robert Jarni for Juventus and Bari's Amendo Mangone were sent off.

Juve, who have 42 points from 19 games, retain their three-point lead over Parma, who beat Padova 1-0. Gianfranco Zola scored in the 71st minute after Parma struggled hard to unlock the west defence in the league which has now let through 41 goals in 19 games.

AS Roma moved into third place on 34 points after beating Inter Milan 3-1. Argentina's international Abel Balbo got all three. Roma's goals, during the fourth minute from a free-kick, then cancelling out Andrea Seno's equaliser before completing his hat-trick in the 71st minute.

In Spain, Barcelona's nightmare continued and they crashed again to go six

jured Nadal and Koeman, looking increasingly fragile. Merino made it 3-0. Two more goals, both scored by Radchenko and the second from the penalty spot, completed Barcelona's misery.

Johan Cruyff later admitted that he was "ashamed" of his side's performance and promised that some "unpleasant" decisions would have to be taken.

"We had a lot of chances in the first-half and we didn't score from them," he said, adding: "Any team can make you suffer when you play like that — especially if you have two players sent off."

Cruyff, who said that the Spanish League was getting "more and more competitive" did not think buying new players was the answer. "A lot of players are just not doing their bit, and they have already been warned," he said.

Real Madrid notched up their 14th win from 21 matches with a 4-1 away win at Logrones — Laudrup scoring twice with their other goals coming from Zamorano and Luis Enrique.

Deportivo stayed to second place five points behind Real despite a shock 3-1 defeat at struggling Sporting Gijon who moved up to third from bottom.

Lazio, beaten in their last outing by Bari, lost again and tumbled from third to fifth in the table — 11 points behind the leaders.

Without their suspended striker Roberto Rambaudi, they were beaten 2-0 by Torino for whom Ghanaian Adebo Pele and French international Jocelyn Angloma scored in the 52nd and 74th minute respectively.

Paris St. Germain's hopes of retaining the French title were badly dented when they crashed 2-0 at Metz. The defeat left them trailing unbeaten pace-setters Nantes, who have a game in hand, by eight points.

The leaders were unable to face visiting Martigues because of a waterlogged pitch while Lyon moved up into second spot after scoring a 3-1 home win over Lille.

Paris St. Germain failed to turn first-half territorial domination into goals and paid the price when Cyrille Pouget was on target for the home side on the hour. Sylvain Kastendieck then sealed the result with a penalty in the 77th minute after Bernard Lama needlessly brought down Pouget.

A hat-trick by Florian Maurice highlighted Lyon's win over Lille — the visitors scoring a consolation goal in the dying seconds through Eric Assouadou.

In Spain, Barcelona's nightmare continued and they crashed again to go six

## Chinese swimmers excluded from Pan Pacific Championships

HONOLULU (Agencies) — China became the first country to be excluded from a major sporting event for drug use when the Pan Pacific Swimming Association decided to bar them from this year's championships.

"We're tired of competing against Chinese who are cheating," Harold Cliff, director of Swimming Canada, said Sunday.

Australia and Canada backed the United States resolution but Japan voted against the ban.

Seven Chinese swimmers, including world champions Yang Aihua and Lu Bin, tested positive for DHT, dehydrotestosterone, at the Asian Games in Hiroshima last October.

China's 12 out of 16 women gold medals and five world records at last year's world championships in Rome sparked off allegations of East German-type drug use but the Chinese authorities have repeatedly denied there is any systematic drug-taking.

The PPSA said the suspension would enable the Chinese to clean up the sport under the guidance of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) to be able to compete at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. The Georgian city is also hosting the Pan-Pacific Championships in August.

The ban might be good news for the World Student Games organisers in Fukuoka as the Chinese might now send their top team to Japan. The two events clash and it had been assumed China would send their best swimmers to Atlanta.

FINA announced last week it would investigate what part trainers, doctors, and officials played in the doping scandal involving Chinese swimmers at last year's Asian Games.

A special commission is to be sent to China to carry out the probe.

"FINA is taking a positive, progressive approach to the problem rather than a punitive one. It's saying, what can we do to tighten the rules and make the sport a clean one?" U.S. Swimming Federation president Carol Zaleski said.

FINA also revealed it would be stepping up out-of-competition dope testing this year and plans to put forward several rule changes involving doping at a special congress

to be held in Rio de Janeiro at the end of the year.

Amongst the proposals, FINA wants to take action against the federations of swimmers found guilty and to have all swimmers who set a world record to be tested within 48 hours of setting the record.

"We hope to eliminate drugs from the sport," FINA president Mustapha Laaroussi said.

### China denounces decision

Beijing Monday denounced a decision by organisers not to invite China to the 1995 Pan Pacific Championships as unfriendly, unfair and unjust.

"I don't quite believe this kind of decision would be made. What reason do they have to do this?" Guo Qinglong, secretary general of the Chinese Swimming Association, said in a telephone interview.

"It's unfair. It's against conventional reasoning... it's unjust," Guo said. "Only those who violate rules should be punished. There is no basis for punishing 1.2 billion people."

The answer was provided by United States Swimming President Carol Zaleski who said that allowing Chinese swimmers to participate would be "ignoring the wealth of actual and circumstantial evidence that points to the fact that their drug problem is widespread and systematic."

"It is a fact that the use of banned drugs has entered China, like flies coming through windows... but our attitude toward drug abuse is unwavering. We will never tolerate, yield to it," Guo said.

"We're not having this problem just today. It began in the 1960s and the struggle against drug abuse is a long-term and complicated one," he said.

Four other Chinese athletes — two canoeists, a hurdler and a cyclist — were also banned last December after their urine samples showed traces of DHT, or dehydrotestosterone, a performance-enhancing hormone banned by the International Olympic Committee.

In a related development, the China Sports Daily said on Monday tests conducted on 57 athletes who took part in its National Winter Games in Northeastern Jilin last month were all negative.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Fogdøe career probably over

STOCKHOLM (R) — Tomas Fogdøe's career as a top skier is probably over following a training accident that left him partially paralysed, the Swedish news agency TT quoted his doctor as saying on Monday.

Ole Andre, head doctor at the University Hospital of Umeå, in northern Sweden, said Fogdøe could recover some use of his legs but would have to "get used to a different way of life."

Fogdøe has suffered serious partial paralysis. He will be able to recover partially as a result of physiotherapy and partially with drugs.

Andren, who said that the Swedish slalom champion cleared 5.90 metres at the first attempt and then stood by and watched arch-rival Igor Trandenkov of Russia miss three attempts at 6.0 metres. Fogdøe, World Cup slalom champion in 1993, was training with the rest of the Swedish downhill team at Åre — 300 kms from Umeå — when he skied into a wood and apparently crashed into a tree.

The West expanded a 16-point half-time lead to 79-60 early in the second half before going cold, missing 10 straight shots during one stretch.

The East used an 11-run gap, capped by a three-point play by O'Neal, to cut the deficit to 79-71 with 5:57 left in the third quarter. O'Neal pulled down a rebound, dribbled the

length of the court and slipped in a finger roll as he drew the foul.

But Payton made a scoop shot and Richmond hit a three-pointer to rebuild the lead to 84-71 and West closed the period with an 11-0 flurry of its own.

Utah Jazz guard John Stockton hit a three-pointer, San Antonio Spurs centre David Robinson had a tip-in, Richmond sank a three-pointer and Stockton hit again from long range to give the West a 104-81 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Barkley shows king-sized emotions

Charles Barkley, who plays bigger-than-life, showed some king-sized emotions after the All-Star game.

First, the 6-foot-5 (1.96 metres) power forward blasted the ESPN sports television network for airing a comment about whites he said was in jest. A few minutes later, he had a hard time disguising the nostalgia when he talked about the inevitable end of his spectacular, 11-year career.

"I think I've played well this season," he said Sunday night. "My goals for the season were to average 20 (points) and 10 (rebounds), and I think that still keeps me in somewhat of an elite status. I think there's only three or four guys averaging 20 and 10, and my team is winning.

The East used an 11-run gap, capped by a three-point play by O'Neal, to cut the deficit to 79-71 with 5:57 left in the third quarter. O'Neal pulled down a rebound, dribbled the

length of the court and slipped in a finger roll as he drew the foul.

But Payton made a scoop shot and Richmond hit a three-pointer to rebuild the lead to 84-71 and West closed the period with an 11-0 flurry of its own.

Wins in the first round were worth one point. Wins in the second round were worth two.

The ante doubles in the third round to four points per win.

Victories in the fourth and final challenger round-robin will be worth five points while the defender scoring escalates to seven points per win.

After the fourth round-robin, the challenger fleet will be culled to the top four boats. All three defenders advance, although the boat with the most round-robin points enters the semi-finals with two wins while the second-highest scoring boat goes into the semis with one win.

"I don't think you want to be the boat entering the semis without a win," said Young America skipper Kevin Mahaney.

"The third round-robin is the one that can make or break the challenger side of the equation.

As it stands now, three challengers, Team New Zealand, Chris Dickson's NZL-39 and One Australia, have the inside track for semi-final berths in the Louis Vuitton Cup.

That could leave Nippon and France battling for the final spot. Presently, the difference between the fourth-place Japanese and the French is three points.

If the form of the first two rounds holds, France can move ahead of Nippon with a third-round victory over the Japanese.

But a

## Israel to allow direct election of PNA chief

JERICHO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed at their first talks in this self-rule enclave Monday that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) head would be directly elected.

PLO negotiator Saeb Erakat said Israel had given way on the PLO demand, the first partial agreement between the two sides in eight months of talks on delayed Palestinian elections.

Israel had previously insisted that the PNA chairman should be appointed by a self-rule council, which is also to be elected.

But the Palestinians pushed for the direct election of the chairman at the same time as the poll for the autonomy council.

The agreement means that when Palestinian voters mark their ballots in self-rule elections, they will vote separately for the president and an autonomy council.

The agreement was a nod to Yasser Arafat, who has long sought two separate ballots in autonomy elections: one for the self-rule council and the other for the president of the legislative body.

The title is seen as a symbolic step towards Mr. Arafat's goal of heading an independent state. He was designated "president of Palestine" by PLO bodies in 1988, but the title was not widely accepted abroad.

"I consider this to be a significant step in the right direction," said Dr. Erakat, minister in the PNA.

The agreement on a key election issue came at a meeting between Dr. Erakat and Yoel Zinger, an Israeli foreign ministry official — the first such negotiation held inside the autonomy area.

Under the Israel-PLO accord, Israel was to have pulled troops out of West Bank cities and cleared the way for elections by last July. However, Israel has resisted moving ahead with a troop withdrawal because of concerns about security in the wake of a series of attacks by militants.

The two sides also agreed that hundreds of observers would be brought to monitor elections — including representatives from Arab countries.

Dr. Erakat said election talks would resume in Cairo on Feb. 21, when the two sides would try to resolve numerous disagreements that remain.

Among the outstanding questions are how many members will be on the council and whether Jerusalem residents will take part in the elections.

The two sides failed to agree Monday on whether militant groups like the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas group, which violently oppose the peace process, should be allowed to run for

## King hosts iftar

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Monday hosted an iftar at Basman Palace for notables and representatives of various organisations in Madaba Governorate. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Hamza Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and other senior officials. The King and the guests attended prayers before the banquet (Petra photo)



## AFM hopes to ease foreign capital rules

AMMAN (R) — The director general of the Amman stock exchange said on Monday he hoped for early approval of a new investment law that will end the need for cabinet approval of stock purchases by a foreigner.

Omaya Touqan said foreign investors who were approved under the existing law continue to show interest in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) but others were awaiting approval of the new law.

"There is a new law for investments which is now at the prime minister's office which does away with the requirement that a non-Jordanian should get permission before buying stocks," Dr. Touqan told a financial conference.

"It is our problem to pass that law in parliament, and I think it will pass, so we have to do that as soon as possible," he said.

Dr. Touqan told Reuters later there was no precise schedule for passing the law but the target was approval before a Middle East economic conference scheduled for Amman at the end of October.

At present foreign investors need approval from the Jordanian cabinet to buy on the local stock market. Bankers say there have been no fresh approvals for months as discussion of the new invest-

## Talibans threaten Hekmatyar stronghold

KABUL (AFP) — The Taliban militant movement captured three main towns in Logar province Monday, moving closer to Charasayab, the headquarters of Hezb-e-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Defence Ministry official said.

There was, however, no independent confirmation of the spokesman's report.

A Hezb-e-Islami spokesman in Islamabad, Mangal Hussain, said fighting was in progress Monday at Baraki Barak, southwest of Pule Alam, capital of Logar province. But he could not confirm or deny the fall of the main city.

A joint force of Talibans and dissident Mujahideen seized control of Pule Alam and the districts of Khoshi and Kolangar from the Hezb-e-Islami, Defence Ministry spokesman Abdullah said. Pule Alam is 25 kilometres to the south of Mr. Hekmatyar's headquarters.

Mr. Abdullah said there was still fighting in Tangi Waghjan, a strategic gorge, approximately 15 kilometres away from Charasayab.

The fall of Pule Alam, if confirmed, will be a major setback to Mr. Hekmatyar's party which lost Maidan Shahr, 30 kilometres south of Kabul in Wardak province, to the Talibans last week.

Dissidents from Mr. Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami, Harakat-e-Inqilab of Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and National-Liberation Front for former President Sibghatullah Mujaheddi had joined the Talibans, the spokesman said.

Mr. Rabbani, whose control of the capital is threatened by the new armed movement, has called on the United Nations to speed up peace efforts, a senior official said Monday.

"Since the overall situation and the balance of power is changing fast throughout the country, the U.N. should accelerate its peace process," said the spokesman, Abdul Aziz Murad.

A U.N. official in Islamabad said at the weekend that a "mechanism" for a peaceful transfer of power by Mr. Rabbani would be in place by Feb. 20.

He said the president would stand down by Feb. 22 as a ceasefire in the 30-month-old civil war that has cost more than 30,000 lives could take effect.

Mr. Rabbani's spokesman countered that he was not aware of the Feb. 20 transition date.

"The government plants a time-bomb inside the professional unions," said Mostafa Amin, founder and columnist at Al Akbar.

Opposition newspapers kept up their attacks on the government's behaviour.

"The government plants a time-bomb inside the professional unions," he added. "Declaring civil disobedience and strikes are the readiest options we have."

The professional associations are one of the few political platforms in Egypt ac-

## Egyptian unionists stage protest against unions law

CAIRO (R) — Hundreds of Egyptians, some saying the government pushing them to the abyss, held a sit-in on Monday to protest against a law which could end their control over the professional unions.

Parliament passed the amended law on Sunday, less than one week after a member of parliament first proposed it and riding roughshod over the views of the Islamist-dominated unions. (see page 2).

The amendment to the law gives the judiciary wide powers to supervise union elections, including the right to delegate these powers to policemen and government officials.

The Egyptian regime is pushing things to the edge of the abyss and we have no alternative but to go to the abyss with them," Doctor Magdi Khalifa told some 500 fundamentalist doctors in the sit-in at their union headquarters.

The amendment was part of a "ferocious campaign launched against the Islamists," he added. "Declaring civil disobedience and strikes are the readiest options we have."

The professional associations are one of the few political platforms in Egypt ac-

(Continued on page 7)

## COLUMN 8

### U.K. woman charged with kidnapping baby

RHYL, Wales (AFP) — Authorities charged a 39-year-old woman with kidnapping a newborn baby from a Welsh hospital, police said. The baby girl, named Lydia, was found safe and sound Saturday, a day after being taken from Bodewyddan Hospital near this north Wales town. Following a telephone tip-off, police said they found the baby Saturday in a house in Rhyl. They arrested a woman and three men who were inside the house. The men were later released without being charged. Lydia, who was born Tuesday, was taken after her mother Christina Owens, 32, was approached in the hospital by a woman she thought was a visitor. Police, backed by volunteers and an air force rescue helicopter, launched a massive search around the hospital and surrounding countryside. The case dominated newspaper headlines in Britain Saturday. It came only two months after former dental nurse Julie Kelley, 22, was given three years' probation for snatching new-born Abbie Humphries from a ward at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, central England, last July. Abbie was recovered just over two weeks later, after a nationwide hunt, at Kelley's home, not far from the hospital.

### Pakistan group calls Jackson, Madonna cultural terrorists

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Michael Jackson and Madonna should be tried in Pakistan as terrorists, a religious party official said in response to the capture of a suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing. "Michael Jackson and Madonna are the torchbearers of American society, their cultural and social values," said Nematullah Khan of the Jamaat-E-Islami or Party of Islam. "They are ruining the lives of thousands of Muslims and leading them to destruction, away from their religion, ethics and morality."

Ramzi Yousef was arrested last Tuesday at a hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, and extradited to New York. Mr. Yousef, an Iraqi, is alleged to be the mastermind of the Feb. 26, 1993, World Trade Centre bombing in New York that left six dead and some 1,000 injured. He pleaded innocent Thursday and is scheduled to make another court appearance this week.

In January 1993, Mr. Peres urged Mr. Rabin that Israel "must take bold steps towards negotiations with the PLO," he wrote. Mr. Peres then proposed the idea of offering the PLO the squallid Gaza Strip and a small area in the West Bank as an autonomous test-case.

"I suggested that we propose to Arafat and his staff that they move to Gaza (and) represent the Palestinians directly... my criticism of the Washington talks was that we were trying to reach a declaration of principles without any reference to specific territorial issues."

Mr. Peres' proposal was accepted by Mr. Rabin, who had been critical of the PLO's leadership... would gradually gain stature and independence and would be able to negotiate without the close and stifling supervision of the PLO. I believed they were mistaken," Mr. Peres wrote.

Mr. Peres served as defence minister in Mr. Rabin's first cabinet in 1974-77, reversing roles in 1984-86 when Mr. Peres headed a government in which their Labour Party shared power with the right-wing Likud.

Mr. Peres unsuccessfully urged Mr. Rabin to drop Israel's boycott of the PLO in August 1992, two months after Labour won elections.

### Peres details push to get Rabin to talk to Arafat

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in a new book published this week described Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as "over-suspicious" and says he had to labour for months to convince Mr. Rabin to talk directly to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In the memoir "Battling For Peace," Mr. Peres claims credit for the ideas that led to the establishment last May of Palestinian autonomy from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The book appeared in part in an attempt to settle scores over Mr. Rabin's 1979 memoirs scathingly critical of Mr. Peres for allegedly undermining his authority during his first stint as prime minister in the 1970s.

"Rabin is a man of solid intellectual gifts, but some of us feel tends to be over-suspicious," Mr. Peres wrote, quoting from his 1950s diaries describing the rising army

officer as "hesitant... too cautious, and his personal relationships too bound up in the past."

The book, excerpts from which were published in the daily Haaretz Monday, could rekindle a recently dormant feud between the two leaders who are leading Israel's drive for peace with the Arabs and shared the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Rabin spokesman Oded Ben-Ami and Benny Cohen refused comment on the book.

Mr. Peres served as defence minister in Mr. Rabin's first cabinet in 1974-77, reversing roles in 1984-86 when Mr. Peres headed a government in which their Labour Party shared power with the right-wing Likud.

Mr. Peres unsuccessfully urged Mr. Rabin to drop Israel's boycott of the PLO in August 1992, two months after Labour won elections.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraq commemorates bombing of shelter

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqis demonstrated here Monday to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the U.S. bombing of an air-raid shelter, which killed more than 400 civilians. A candle-light procession was held at Al Amiriyah shelter which has remained untouched since it was gutted by U.S. bombs on Dec. 13, 1991, during the Gulf war. Several hundred young Iraqis marched past the air-raid shelter on Sunday evening carrying pictures of the victims. Iraq said the bombing of the two-storey concrete shelter killed 403 people. The Pentagon said at the time that the shelter had been hit, it was because it looked like a military bunker. Later Washington did not rule out that some civilians may have been killed.

Dissidents from Mr. Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami, Harakat-e-Inqilab of Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and National-Liberation Front for former President Sibghatullah Mujaheddi had joined the Talibans, the spokesman said.

Mr. Rabbani, whose control of the capital is threatened by the new armed movement, has called on the United Nations to speed up peace efforts, a senior official said Monday.

"Since the overall situation and the balance of power is changing fast throughout the country, the U.N. should accelerate its peace process," said the spokesman, Abdul Aziz Murad.

A U.N. official in Islamabad said at the weekend that a "mechanism" for a peaceful transfer of power by Mr. Rabbani would be in place by Feb. 20.

He said the president would stand down by Feb. 22 as a ceasefire in the 30-month-old civil war that has cost more than 30,000 lives could take effect.

Mr. Rabbani's spokesman countered that he was not aware of the Feb. 20 transition date.

"The government plants a time-bomb inside the professional unions," he added. "Declaring civil disobedience and strikes are the readiest options we have."

army spokesman refused to comment on the issue to AFP. Several soldiers told Maariv that they grew very anxious if they had to approach the "crossroads of death."

### 3,000 under arrest in southern Egypt

MINYA (AFP) — Police have arrested 3,000 people in the past month in the troubled southern region of Minya and the crackdown is due to intensify after last week's arrival of 7,000 new officers, police said Monday. Most of those arrested were aged between 17 and 25 and were mainly pupils from secondary schools in the province, especially in Mallowi and Abu Qurqas. The detainees are being held in a security forces camp in the town of Minya on the edge of the Nile about 250 kilometres south of Cairo. The province has become the new stronghold for militants waging a bloody anti-government campaign since they were chased out of the neighbouring area of Assuit in the autumn.

### Working group to meet in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — The regional economic working group which includes Jordan, Egypt, the Palestine National Authority and Israel will meet in Cairo Wednesday to select the group's headquarters.

### Jordanian, Egyptian experts to meet

CAIRO (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian trade committee will meet in Cairo at the level of experts to prepare lists of commodities that might be added to the trade protocol between the two countries in the beginning of March. The committee will also meet on the sidelines of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, which will be chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries in the end of March.

### Dense fog in Turkey paralyses Bosphorus

ISTANBUL (R) — Almost 200 ships queued at the Bosphorus Strait on Monday after dense fog in Turkey shut down the vital shipping link and also disrupted road and air travel. Around 90 ships were waiting at the southern entrance to the waterway linking the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara and more than 100 were at the northern entrance, a Turkish maritime official said. "We are checking vision on the Bosphorus every half hour to let the waiting vessels pass today and eliminate the queues on both sides of the strait," he said, adding that the waterway had been closed to traffic since mid-day on Sunday.

### Ireland launches manhunt for suspected killer

NAAS, Ireland (AFP) — Using police dogs and a helicopter, Irish authorities launched a manhunt Sunday for the suspected killer of a five-year-old boy. The child was stabbed to death overnight Saturday by a man who entered the boy's home in Naas, 30 kilometres (20 miles) southwest of Dublin.

### Modern art show marks re-opening of Uffizi room

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — The works of more than 60 contemporary artists went on display in the Uffizi Gallery to mark the re-opening of a room in the Renaissance Palace that was badly damaged by a bomb in 1993. "Today a sad chapter in the history of the Uffizi has closed," gallery director Anna Maria Petrucci-Tosini told reporters at an inauguration ceremony. The exhibition, entitled "compensation", is being held in the freshly-restored "Royal Mail Room", whose 250-metre long glass roof was blasted to smithereens in the explosion.